GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4068
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2016
Shortage of Life Saving Drugs
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

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(a) whether there is shortage of certain life saving drugs including D-Penicillamine and Human Albumin Serum;

(b) if so, the details thereof and remedial measures taken in this regard;

(c) whether the price cap on such drugs are causing a supply gap and the view of the Government in this regard;

(d) the other reasons identified by the Ministry for sudden shortage of drugs; and

(e) whether there is any other life saving drug which faces a supply demand gap in the market and steps the Government propose to take to ensure that the life saving drugs are easily available to the needy?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)
(a): Reports of shortage of D-Penicillamine drug have been received from different parts of the country. Shortage of Human albumin serum was reported in the Financial Year 2015-16. However, no report of shortage of Human Albumin Serum has been received during last 6 months.

(b): National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA), Department of Pharmaceuticals has informed that all complaints on shortage of D-Pencillamine are being sent to the concerned manufacturers on regular basis with instructions to increase supply of the drug in the affected areas. NPPA has facilitated 40 patients and made medicines available to them through manufacturers. A meeting was also held at the level of Drugs Controller General (India) wherein the manufacturers were advised to ensure that the shortage is redressed. One of the manufacturers informed that they have launched a website www.cilamin.com, a whatsapp Group, a Twiter handle, and a facebook page for support, monitoring and real time communication regarding availability of the drug. Accordingly, a notice has been placed on the website of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) to the effect that any person facing any difficulty with regard to availability of D- Penicillamine may contact the concerned manufacturer through the above communication channel.

(c): The ceiling price of Pencillamine 250 mg capsule was fixed by NPPA as Rs.13.23 vide SO 1686 (E) on 09.05.2016 which implies a reduction of only 5.1% with reference to the highest existing market price. Thus price cap could not be causing shortage of the drugs in the country.

(d): The constraints on account of availability of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) led to the shortage of D-penicillamine drug.

(e): NPPA have informed that they have received two complaints regarding shortage of Desferrioxamine, which is used in the treatment of Thalassaemia. The complaints so received were taken up with the concerned manufacturer who have replied that the product is available in adequate quantity in the country.